

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as indicated below.

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for configuring a first network device in a communication network, comprising:
 - selecting ~~one or more~~ at least one subsets of a plurality of standardized network equipment configuration parameters, each subset comprising ~~multiple a plurality of individual~~ configuration parameters;
 - representing each selected at least one ~~one or more~~ subset by a value of an associated unique value grouping variable;
 - saving ~~the unique~~ each value associated with each grouping variable into a configuration file on a server, each value ~~values representing the each~~ selected at least one subsets ~~to a configuration file on a server, thereby~~ creating a configuration file that governs switches executed by the first network device to switch on and/or off the at least one subsets of standardized network equipment configuration parameters according to each unique values representing the at least one subsets ~~without including the plurality of individual configuration parameters contained in each selected subset~~ ~~but not comprising the multiple configuration parameters of the subsets themselves~~;
 - loading the configuration file from the server to ~~a~~ the first network device; and
 - setting software switches within the first network device according to ~~the unique~~ at least one of the values in the configuration file, thereby switching on and/or off subsets of standardized network equipment configuration parameters within the first network device according to at least one of the representative ~~unique~~ values in the configuration file.
2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the at least one subset ~~or subsets~~ are ~~is~~ selected with a user interface.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the user interface is a computing device.
4. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein the computing device is a personal computer.
5. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein the computing device is a personal digital assistant.
6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 ~~wherein~~ wherein the server is a trivial file transfer protocol server.
7. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the first network device is an embedded MTA.
8. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the communication features facilitate communication between the first network device and a second network device.
9. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the second network device is a cable modem termination system.
10. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the second network device is a PacketCable provisioning server.
11. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the second network device is a media gateway.
12. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the second network device is a PacketCable call management server.

13. (Currently Amended) A system for configuring a first network device in a communication network, comprising:
- means for setting each of ~~one or more~~ at least one communication parameter variables to a value representing ~~one or more~~ at least one subsets of a plurality of standardized network equipment configuration parameters, each value of the at least one communication parameter variable ~~value~~ representing a plurality of multiple individual configuration parameters;
 - means for saving each of the representative values to a configuration file without including in the configuration file the plurality of individual configuration parameters contained in the at least one subset, thereby creating a configuration file that governs switches executed by the first network device to switch on and/or off subsets of standardized network equipment configuration parameters according to each of the representative values;
 - means for loading the configuration file to the first network device; and
 - means for setting software switches within the first network device according to the parameter-representative values in the configuration file, thereby switching on and/or off subsets of standardized network equipment configuration parameters within the network device according to the parameter-representative values in the configuration file ~~that represent the subsets but which do not comprise the multiple configuration parameters of the subsets themselves~~.
14. (Original) The system of claim 13 wherein the means for selecting and accepting includes a user interface.
15. (Original) The system of claim 13 wherein the means for saving is a computer.
16. (Original) The system of claim 13 wherein the means for loading includes a server.

17. (Original) The system of claim 13 wherein the software switches are TLV variables that determine the data to be included in a communication message between the first network device and a second network device.
18. (Original) The system of claim 13 wherein the means for setting the software switches includes operating system software and logic circuitry, the logic circuitry, being under the control of the operating system software, being capable of inserting information into a communication message based on the configuration file.

Claims 19-25 (Cancelled)

26. (Newly Added) The method of claim 1, wherein the first network device performs a selected provisioning method responsive to at least one of the values in the configuration file.
27. (Newly Added) The system of claim 13, wherein the first network device comprises logic configured to provision the first network device responsive to at least one of the representative values in the configuration file.